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EDITORIALS

Intelligence Agency

Criticism of the United States Central Intelligence Agency has flared up as a result of the debacle in Cuba. It would be a mistake, however, for the American people to start regarding the intelligence agency as a bungling organization because of the recent fiasco.

It did not take anyone with any intelligence to know that 500 or 1,000 insurgents, poorly equipped and armed, could not compete with an army of some 25,000 or more trained troops supplied with heavy arms by Russia and Red China.

If our national administration thought the people in Cuba would rise up, without arms, and join the insurgents in an effort to overthrow the government it was using less sense than the average citizen possesses, regardless of what it may have been told by the C.I.A.

Even if the C. I. A. misinterpreted the internal situation in Cuba, its record since its formation more than a dozen years ago contains more to praise than to condemn. Its most generally known previous misadventure involved the U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union. Even then, it was the national administration and not the C. I. A. which made the blunder. If an intelligence agency expects to find out anything, it has to spy. Our mistake in connection with that episode was in penning off by denying the activity. If we had kept our mouths shut we would not have lost any face.

Nevertheless, against that and the Cuban affair, the C. I. A. can

mention prediction of the Hungarian revolt against the communists, prediction of Soviet space satellites a year before the launching of the first sputnik, and foreknowledge of the British, French and Israeli attack upon Egypt and the Suez canal.

There is no real indication that the Kennedy administration has lost faith in the C. I. A. or its director, Allen W. Dulles, brother of the late John Foster Dulles, secretary of state under President Eisenhower. The administration probably had a good enough idea of the setup in Cuba and if it hoped the invasion would stir up a general and immediate revolution among the Cuban people, it reckoned without considering the people's desire for their own safety in view of threats made by Premier Fidel Castro.

Despite what happened in Cuba, it must not be forgotten that the C. I. A. was instrumental in the Guatemalan revolution of 1954 which overthrew international communism's first major attempt to establish a communist government in the western hemisphere, although proving C. I. A. complicity would be - as it ought to be in such undertakings - a difficult matter.

Although C. I. A. activities are cloaked in utmost secrecy, it is no secret that the organization maintains a formidable organization for obtaining, abstracting and indexing information on a comprehensive scale.